



I Am a Woman poore and blind  
and little knowledge remains in me,  
Long have I sought and faine would I knowe,  
what heards in my garden were best to be.  
A garden I have which is unknowne,  
that God of his goodnes gaue unto me: (sorrowe  
I misse my owne hope wherein I would haue  
the seede of Christs true veritie.  
My spirit within me is herde soze,  
my flesh cleineth against the same:  
My sorowes do increas daily more and more,  
my conscience suffereth most bitter paine:  
I would my selfe being thus of strife,  
would faine haue his appeare and rest:  
Grieving and bawling in my moost paine,  
would faine I might knowe to please God best.  
With whole intent and one accord,  
was a Gardener that I did knowe:  
I went and beared him for the lease of the Lord,  
true seedes in my garden for to sow.  
Then this proud Gardener seeing me so blinde,  
he thought for me to make his will:  
And hee entered me with words so kind,  
to haue me continue in blindnesse still.  
Hee led me then with lyes and mowen,  
for ventall sinnes he had me goe,  
To pine my money to stones and storkes,  
which was like lyes and nothing so.  
With seeking meate then was I led,  
for to keepe me from my saluation:  
I had treu-talies of spasse, and wols of lead,  
that one word spoken of Christs passion.  
In me was sowne all kinde of sained seedes,  
with depth ceremonies many a one,  
Byes of Requiem with other Angling seedes,  
all Gods iurst out of my garden was gone.  
Then was I commanded full straigly,  
that my saluation I would be sure:  
To call some Chappell, or some Chauntry,  
to be paid for to build the world enure.  
Some of these learning, said he, it is lye,  
to spend so thing I most abhorre:  
Hee said not with it in any manner of wise,  
but hee as your father haue done before.

I My trust I did put then in worldly trokes,  
thinking them sufficient my soule to save.  
Being woe then wither I went of Turkes,  
thus Christ of his merites I did repaire.  
I might then my selfe with a twofold heart,  
unto the Ambrosian in Luke the men:  
from whence Christ caused the Diuine to de-  
but shortly after he took the other seane. (part  
My time thus was Lord so wickedly spent,  
that shall I die the sooner I returne:  
O Lord, I finde written in thy Testament,  
that thou shalt merry enough in heauen.  
For such sinners as the world doth call,  
that shall gladly repent and be made whole:  
For I have seen many a man,  
for whom I have seen many a man.  
I thought me good Lord in thy truth to stand,  
for the bloody Butchers haue me at their will:  
And they haue kniues ready vnto their ends,  
my simple carke to deuour and kill. (hand  
O Lord forgive me mine offence,  
for I haue offended thee very sore:  
Take therefore my sinfull body from hence,  
and then that I did weelch offend thee no more.  
I would with all christians faithfull friends  
to keepe them from this Gardners hands,  
for he will bring them downe into their ends,  
with cruel tormentes of fierce strydings.  
I dare not presume for him to pray,  
because the truth of him was well knowne:  
And since that time he hath gone astray,  
and much patient less abroad he hath to come.  
Because that now I haue no space,  
the cause of my death truly to showe:  
I trust hereafter by Gods holy grace,  
that all faithfull men shall it plainly knowe.  
To thee O Lord I bequeath my spirit,  
which art the workemaster of the same:  
It is thine Lord therefore take it of right, (come  
my carke on earth I leave, from whence it  
Although to ayes it be not burned,  
I knowe thou shalt raise it againe,  
In the same likeness that thou it hast made,  
it becometh then comen to be made.